

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-8 were previously pending in the application. Claims 2-4 are canceled and new claims 9-14 are added. Therefore, claims 1 and 6-14 are presented for consideration.

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 6 and 7 are allowed.

Claims 1-4 and 8 are rejected as anticipated by JOHNSON et al. US Re. 36,164. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 3 and provides that a shape of the far end of the rib is a shape along a virtual cylinder surface whose diameter substantially equals the outer diameter of the shaft section of the screw and whose center axis substantially matches the center axis of the shaft section of the screw.

By way of example, Figure 4A of the present application shows a shape of the rib 6a at the far end is concave such that the far end of the rib is along a virtual cylinder surface whose diameter d substantially equals the outer diameter of the shaft section of the screw.

In contrast, ribs 16 of JOHNSON et al. are convex and are not in a shape along a virtual cylinder surface whose diameter substantially equals the outer diameter of the shaft section of the screw as recited in claim 1. As the reference

does not disclose that which is recited, the anticipation rejection is not viable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim 8 is rewritten in independent form and provides that the ribs number three and a section of the inner surface of the through hole having a maximum diameter directly faces the ribs.

As seen in Figure 4A of the present application, there are three ribs and a maximum diameter of the through hole goes through a proximal end of the ribs and the ribs are so situated to be opposed from this maximum diameter such that the through hole at the maximum diameter directly faces the ribs.

Figure 3 of JOHNSON et al. noted in the Official Action as providing support for rejecting claim 8 shows four ribs 16, not the recited three ribs. In addition, the maximum diameter indicated by reference numeral 20 of JOHNSON et al. is opposite outermost portions 18 and does not directly face the ribs as further recited in claim 8 of the present application. As the reference does not disclose that which is recited, the anticipation rejection cannot be sustained. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

New claim 9 provides a first substantially planar frame having a through hole and a plurality of ribs extending toward a

center of the through hole. The insert 10 of JOHNSON et al. is not substantially planar.

Claim 11 provides that a distal end of each rib is concave such that the plural ribs are along a virtual cylinder having a diameter substantially the same as an outer diameter of the screw. As set forth above regarding claim 1, the ribs of JOHNSON et al. are convex.

New claim 13 provides that the ribs number three and that the ribs fixedly extend from the first frame. JOHNSON et al. teach four ribs and that the ribs are movable within first structural member 32.

New claim 14 provides a plurality of rigid ribs extending toward a center of a through hole. As set forth on column 5, lines 11-20 of JOHNSON et al., the ribs 16 are resilient and elastically deformed.

Accordingly, none of the above-noted features are disclosed by JOHNSON et al. and thus the new claims are believed to avoid the rejection under §102 and are allowable over the art of record.

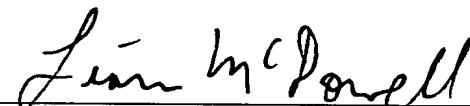
In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Please charge the fee of \$172 for the two extra independent claims added herewith to Deposit Account No. 25-0120.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. §1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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